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SCHOOL

AND

FINANCIAL REPORTS

OF THE

TOWN OF HANCOCK

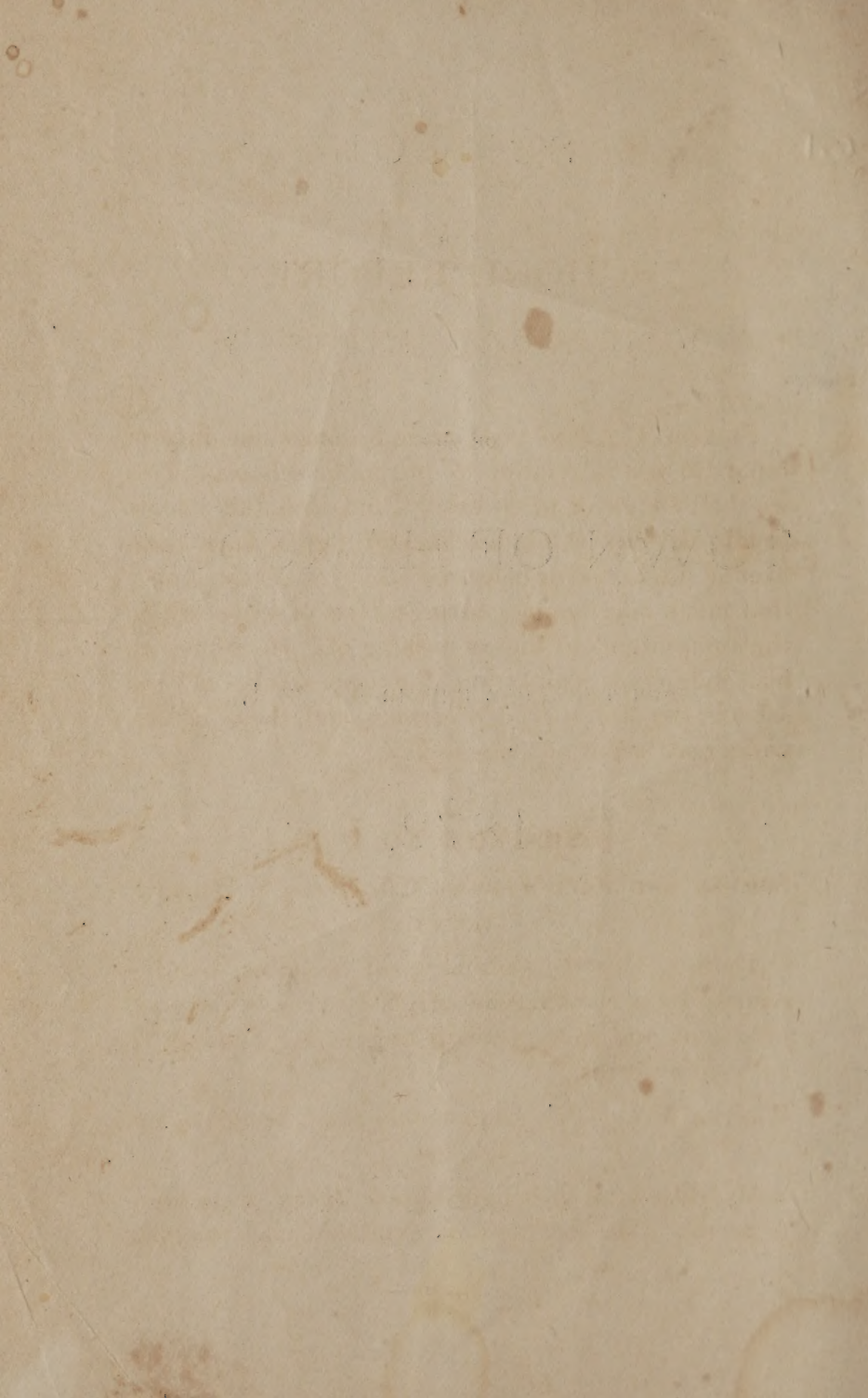
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1,

1872.

PETERBORO' :

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1872.

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SCHOOL REPORT.

FELLOW CITIZENS : It again becomes our duty to report to you in relation to our public schools. This we shall endeavor to do briefly, and with full justice to all. If any think teachers or pupils have been over praised or over censured, they must remember that much may happen during a term of school which the superintendent knows nothing of. He makes up his judgment mainly on the appearance of the schools on two special occasions, and these appearances may sometimes mislead.

DISTRICT NO. 1.

SUMMER AND FALL TERMS—Miss Nettie F. Wheeler,
Teacher.

Thorough instruction and good discipline, happily secured by a combination of good scholarship, good judgment and love, were distinguishing features of both these terms.

WINTER TERM—Mr. Clarence B. Root, Francestown,
Teacher.

Mr. Root is a thorough scholar and a good disciplinarian. The examination exhibited good teaching

and good progress generally. Reading and writing, though frequently neglected, received special attention. We have never had so fine a display of skill in map drawing upon the board in any of our schools as was given here. The class in Physiology, Ancient History and Algebra, were above the average. With few exceptions this school stands well in moral deportment. Mr. Root's *School Register* is a model of neatness and perfection.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

FALL AND WINTER TERMS—Miss Lucretia M. Robinson, Antrim, Teacher.

This school has seldom, if ever, given as good evidence of thorough instruction and progress, as on the last examination day. The following named pupils are reported by the teacher as not whispering during the whole two terms of twenty weeks: Mary J. Dutton, Sarah C. Dutton, B. Viola Hall, Chas. H. Dutton, T. L. Hadley, H. D. Sawyer, Frank C. Robinson, George Hall, George E. Mathews and Frank A. Mann. The superintendent takes much pleasure in thanking them for their good example.

DISTRICT NO. 3.

SUMMER TERM—Miss Mary A. Dow, Hancock, Teacher.

The superintendent has been acquainted with Miss Dow from her girlhood, and can recommend her as a teacher of very fine accomplishments. The examination at the close of this term fully justified our anticipations.

WINTER TERM—Miss Alice S. Goodhue, Hancock,
Teacher.

This was Miss Goodhue's second term in the district, which is generally regarded as good evidence of popularity. This school, as usual, was a model of order and good behavior. Charles T. Tenney and Mary A. Tenney are reported by their two last teachers as deserving of particular mention for their fine scholarship. They are *deserving* of the *honor*.

DISTRICT NO. 4.

SUMMER AND WINTER TERM—Miss Esther K. Symonds,
Hancock, Teacher.

The people of this district have, for a series of years, manifested their interest in their schools by encouraging habits of study and obedience in their children, and by frequent visits to the school room. Considering what this school was five years ago, they have much reason to feel proud of their progress. The two last terms were very satisfactory.

DISTRICT NO. 5.

SUMMER TERM—Miss Emogene F. Lakin, Hancock,
Teacher.

Miss Lakin is a young teacher, but is deserving of encouragement. She did well, and the examination showed good improvement for so small scholars.

WINTER TERM—Miss Abbie J. Wheeler, Teacher.

Miss Wheeler is young and without experience. If she failed to give satisfaction in all respects, it was unintentional and resulted from circumstances over

which she had little control. We think a district that hires young and inexperienced teachers for small pay, ought to be satisfied with what is reasonable, and have much charity for their mistakes. We visited this school twice, and teacher and pupils appeared to be doing well.

DISTRICT NO. 6.

SUMMER TERM—Miss Clara A. Newell, Sharon, Teacher.

This school was well taught, order very fair, and progress satisfactory.

WINTER TERM—Miss Mary H. Jewett, Peterboro', Teacher.

What was said of the summer term will apply to this, and perhaps with more force, as the school was larger and the addition was of that class of scholars that improve the appearance of any school. No. 6 is among our best schools in scholarship, moral deportment and discipline. Herbert I. Hayward and Alsina L. Hayward are specially reported for scholarship and behavior. We are glad to make room for all such scholars.

DISTRICT NO. 7.

SUMMER TERM—Miss Mary J. Parker, Peterboro', Teacher.

Miss Parker was a faithful and deserving teacher, and has a strong hold upon the affections and gratitude of her pupils. We hope her kind words and good advice may not soon be forgotten. She is now dead.

WINTER TERM—Wm. U. Carlton, Hancock, Teacher.

The verdict of parents and pupils was, that they had a good school. The teacher generously gave one week to lengthen the school, and the parents contributed two weeks more, making twelve weeks. Thorough instruction, good discipline and good progress were the leading features of this term. Every scholar in school, for the past two terms, is reported in the "Register," for good *moral deportment*. It is a high compliment, and we hope they may continue to deserve the praise.

DISTRICT NO. 8.

SUMMER AND WINTER TERMS—Miss Adna E. Fretts, Milford, Teacher.

This school has become so small it is hard keeping up the interest that should prevail in the school room. With a little more age and experience, and a larger school, Miss Fretts may become a fine teacher. She gained the good will of her pupils, and they made fair progress in their studies.

DISTRICT NO. 9.

SUMMER AND WINTER TERMS—Miss Dorothy M. Wilder, Stoddard, Teacher.

As usual, Miss Wilder worked industriously and successfully. Both schools appeared to have made good progress in their studies. In scholarship and deportment, the teacher reports all her pupils "plus." We hope they will strive hard to merit the honor in the future. Thus much for the schools individually.

Before closing this report, we wish to say a word to teachers: Having been a teacher many years ourselves, we know how to sympathise with you, fully, in all your numerous trials and arduous labors. We think you much more frequently deserve sympathy and encouragement, than censure and rebuke. Still, you often deserve the trouble and disgrace incident to your ill success, for presuming to engage in so responsible and difficult a position as that of a teacher, with so little preparation. In the first place, many of you are too young, by three or four years. You are mere children yourselves, incapable of commanding any sort of respect. Of course you fail to satisfy the reasonable demands of the public, and you are disgraced. Having no knowledge of human nature, as it is illustrated in the general affairs of the great world, how can you expect to mould, or rather how *dare* you *touch* the plastic clay of the young mind, as you find it in the school room, awaiting the gentle touches that are expected to mould it into vessels of honor? You may as well expect to succeed in music, painting or oratory, without special preparation, as in the more noble art of teaching.

In books, you have frequently done considerable, especially in Arithmetic. But in the practical use of language, you are sadly deficient. You fail, too, in Geography. The little smattering of geographical science which you have picked up at the halves, is a very small capital to commence business upon. Our advice to you is, to give the whole subject a thorough revision. With the aid of Guyot's directions in map drawing, you can in a few months prepare yourselves

to draw, at will, a good map of any country in the world. Then we shall be willing to pay you for teaching Geography.

How is it with reading? Do you feel that you are capable of teaching this most important branch of education? Can you produce the various tones by which feeling is expressed? And the inflections, with the reasons for their use in any instance? If you cannot, how are our children to become good readers under your training? We cannot reasonably expect it. The only way you can be prepared to teach reading, is by studying Elocution, as you have studied Arithmetic. We have intimated that all these defects may be overcome at home. So they may, by perseverance, but it would no doubt, be much better to take a regular course of training at a Normal School.

One word more. If your schools are ever so small, don't spend a moment idly in the school room. Drill the small scholars in their reading, spelling and arithmetic lessons, several times a day. Half an hour in drill, is worth an hour in study.

To parents we would say, stand by the Common Schools. Stand by the teacher, and aid him in sustaining order. You can no more have a good school without order, than an efficient army without discipline. In no case withdraw your children from the school on account of fancied or real wrongs. By so doing, you cheat your child, injure the school, and endanger the state. Your claims upon the public schools, for the education of your children, are as valid in law, as the title to your estates. We say, stand

for your rights. And while standing *for your* rights, see that you *render what is right to others*.

To the patriot and christian we would say, you have a just pride in the reputation your country enjoys, as a land of civil and religious liberty. And as you look forward to the future, you, undoubtedly, rejoice in the hope that these blessings may be perpetual. We do not wish to cause unnecessary alarm, but with the apathy and jealousy existing among ourselves, and the immense streams of foreign influence setting in upon us from two oceans, we certainly feel that there is danger ahead. Many of our largest cities are already in a great measure, under the control of the foreign element. The rate of increase is much more rapid among our foreign population, than among the native. While every Irish home swarms like a bee hive, our native homes are tending to extinction.

Look at our schools, little feeble things, literally dying out. All through the country, the schools which once numbered from forty to one hundred scholars, have dwindled to twelve or fifteen. With these facts before us, there seems to be but a single chance for the future of our country, and that chance rests upon education.

History furnishes many examples of single minds that have controlled the current of human thought for ages. This was especially true of Luther, Calvin and Melancthon in the religious world; and the same was true of Newton, Bacon, Kepler and Laplace in the scientific world. In politics, literature, science and religion, how true it is, that a few leading minds do the thinking for the million. Now the plan we

would recommend, is to make education thorough, universal and cheap, like the sunlight. And that it may be thorough and cheap, we must unite our schools and money. Our scholars could all be accommodated in a single building, and three teachers could manage them. The money we annually spend for education, would meet the whole expense of a first-class school, forty weeks in the year.

If the above plan is thought too venturesome at first, we might appropriate a portion of our school money, sufficient to run a public school ten or twelve weeks, at the village. This plan would suit some, and would certainly be better than to go out of town for our schooling. We have only touched hastily upon a few of the many points we should be glad to discuss. We might have a series of meetings at a suitable time, and give this whole subject of education a thorough ventilation.

In conclusion, the superintendent desires to return his thanks to teachers, parents and children, for the uniform courtesy and respect he has received at their hands, while in the discharge of his official duties.

The above is respectfully submitted,

C. A. WHITAKER,
School Committee of Hancock.

SCHOOL STATISTICS.

Districts.	Length in weeks			Wages and board.		Whole number scholars.			Average attendance for the year.	No. not attending school.	Whole number of scholars in town.
	First Term.	Second Term.	Third Term.	Summer Term.	Winter Term.	First Term.	Second Term.	Third Term.			
1	6	10	12	\$32 00	{ *\$34 00 †40 00	28	32	35	31 ² / ₃	11	47
2	10	10		18 00	18 00	17	17		17		17
3	9	10		20 00	23 00	14	16		15		16
4	10	12		18 00	20 00	6	9		7 ¹ / ₂		9
5	8	10		20 00	20 00	6	8		7		8
6	7	8		18 00	28 00	9	13		11	1	13
7	7	12		20 00	23 00	7	23		12		23
8	9	11		18 00	25 00	7	7		7	2	7
9	6	10		18 00	24 00	7	8		7 ¹ / ₂		8
										14	148

* Fall Term. † Winter Term.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

A. D. Tuttle, Town Treasurer, in account with the town of
Hancock.

Dr.

To cash in treasury at close of last settlement,	\$511 93
" " received of County for County paupers,	237 92
" " " State Treas., Savings Bank tax, 1871,	865 72
" " " " " Railroad tax, " "	135 73
" " " " " Literary Fund, " "	51 90
" " " John H. Wood, use of Town Hall,	9 00
" " " X. W. Brooks, for old bridge plank,	2 00
" " " Librarian for fines,	2 55
" " " David Wilds, Collector for 1871,	3525 65
" " " " " " 1870,	9 50
" " " " " " 1871, in'st,	10 39
" " " Oren Nelson, " " 1869,	6 54
	<hr/> \$5368 83

Cr.

By cash paid to the several School Districts, which sum includes
the Library Fund for 1871 :

District No. 1, John Duncan, Prudential Committee,	\$309 12
" " 2, Wm. P. Hall, " "	99 28
" " 3, Chas. M. Flint, " "	109 58
" " 3, School House tax " "	49 37
" " 4, John H. Felch, " "	78 10
" " 5, Gilman Gilchrist, " "	118 84
" " " School House Tax,	10 00
" " 6, C. E. L. Hayward, Prudential Committee,	99 21
" " 7, Thomas Hadley, " "	112 19
" " 8, Mark N. Spalding, " "	123 47
" " 9, William Weston, " "	37 86
" " 10, in Harrisville,	14 19
	<hr/> \$1161 21

Paid for Support of Poor.

Wm. W. Hall, for Mrs. Ward Ware,	\$77 00
Mrs. M. H. Priest, for Catherine Howard,	60 75
Asa Simonds, for Lorena Hills,	52 00
“ “ for Isabel Sawyer,	52 00
Erastus Austin, for Lois Gould,	36 50
David T. Ware, for Lydia Russell,	138 00
Charles Hayward, for Oscar Hall,	104 00
“ “ for Mark Alcott,	86 15
A. C. Blood, goods for Keely family,	18 65
A. D. Tuttle, “ “ “ “	4 09
J. P. Hills, “ “ “ “	4 43
A. B. Stone, “ “ “ “	2 50
“ time spent for Keely family,	4 00
“ carrying Lee boy to county farm,	3 00
A. C. Blood, goods for Oscar Hall,	3 23
“ “ “ Mrs. Gassett and Oscar Hall,	7 57
D. Patten, boarding Mark Alcott,	3 00
A. D. Tuttle, medicines and goods for Mrs. Gassett,	5 82
“ goods for Mark Alcott,	1 90
Dr. A. H. Taft, medical attendance on Mrs. Gassett,	36 13
“ “ “ Mark Alcott,	6 00
Jefferson Barney, for Mrs. Gassett,	35 65
A. B. Stone, time spent with paupers,	4 90
J. M. Rice, medical attendance for Mr. and Mrs. A. Hart,	10 00
J. P. Hills, time spent for Mrs. Gassett,	1 00
Charles Hayward, medicine, &c., for Hall & Alcott,	4 50
Eliza Brooks, boarding, Mrs. Gassett,	5 00
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	\$766 87

Paid for Roads and Bridges.

W. T. Averill, work on highway,	\$1 95
L. W. Alcock, “ “ “	2 00
A. F. Sheldon, damage to wagon,	1 50
Spalding & Mathews, lumber and labor on county bridge,	54 00
J. S. Lakin, removing stones from highway,	13 00
J. H. Felch, powder and fuse for highway,	1 10
G. Gilchrist, work on highway,	6 00
J. Weston, “ “ “	6 25
M. Harrington, building culverts,	23 00
A. B. Stone, labor and powder for highway,	3 30
“ labor and materials for highway,	7 70
E. Austin, labor on highway,	3 00
J. W. Goodhue, bridge plank,	4 56

Warren Stearns, bridge plank,	8 01
Mark N. Spalding, snowing bridge,	1 50

\$136 87

Non-resident highway tax,	37 26
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Paid Town Officers' Bills.

Charles Turner, Sexton,	\$ 5 75
C. A. Whitaker, Superintending School Committee,	46 00
David Wilds, Collector,	37 50
A. D. Tuttle, Treasurer,	20 00
“ Librarian,	25 00
“ Town Clerk,	18 61
Andrew B. Stone, Selectman,	49 00
John P. Hills, “	41 00
William Weston, “	14 50
Auditors' bill,	3 00

\$260 36

Paid Miscellaneous Bills.

Farnum & Scott, printing reports for 1871,	\$10 00
Ezra M. Smith, Atty. for W. T. Donnel,	7 00
J. K. Smith, surveying the common,	2 75
A. B. Stone, blank books and stationery,	7 85
“ procuring services of surveyor,	1 50
J. H. Wood, taking care of town hall, &c.,	6 83
A. D. Tuttle, rope furnished sexton,	90
“ stationery furnished selectmen,	1 17
G. H. Tilden & Co., repairing library books,	8 25

\$46 25

State Treasurer, State Tax,	\$1776 00
County Treasurer, County Tax,	560 16
Abatement of Taxes for 1870,	1 50
Abatement of Taxes for 1871,	2 00

Recapitulation.

Money received by Treasurer,	\$5368 83
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Money paid out by Treasurer:

Paid the several School Districts,	\$1161 21
Support of the Poor,	766 87

Roads and Bridges,	136 87
Non-resident highway tax,	37 26
Town Officers' bills,	260 36
Miscellaneous bills,	46 25
State Tax,	1776 00
County Tax,	560 16
Abatement of taxes for 1870,	1 50
" " " " 1871,	2 00
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	\$4748 48

A. D. TUTTLE, TREASURER.

We, the undersigned, have examined the foregoing accounts, and find them correctly cast and duly vouched, and find a balance in the Treasurer's hands of six hundred and twenty dollars and thirty-five cents.

ASA SIMONDS,	}	AUDITORS.
EBENEZER WARE,		
AVERY M. CLARK,		

Hancock, Feb. 29, 1872.

REPORT OF OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

Number of paupers supported by the town for the past year, 5.
Number assisted, 2.

Cost of supporting the town paupers, as per Treasurer's report,	\$528 95
Four county paupers supported,	201 25
Two " " assisted,	36 67

There is due William W. Hall, for support of Mrs. Ward Ware,	16 00
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One county pauper died within the year.

ANDREW B. STONE,	} OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.
JOHN P. HILLS,	
WILLIAM WESTON,	



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SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1872.

Outstanding Claims against the Town, March 1st, 1872.

Due Wm. W. Hall, for support of Mrs. Ward Ware,	\$ 16 00
Michael Harrington, for building new road,	138 00
Henry W. Ware, March 12, 1872, for sheep killed by dogs,	2 00
Balance of dog tax, payable to the several school districts,	65 00
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	\$221 00

Assets of the Town.

Money in treasury,	\$ 620 35
In Collector Nelson's hands for 1869,	9 93
" " of Peterboro' " " 1867,	272 67
" " " " " 1868,	297 04
" " Wilds' " " 1871,	25 00
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	\$1,224 99
Assets over debts,	\$1,003 99

Respectfully submitted,

ANDREW B. STONE, } SELECTMEN
JOHN P. HILLS, } OF
WILLIAM WESTON, } HANCOCK.